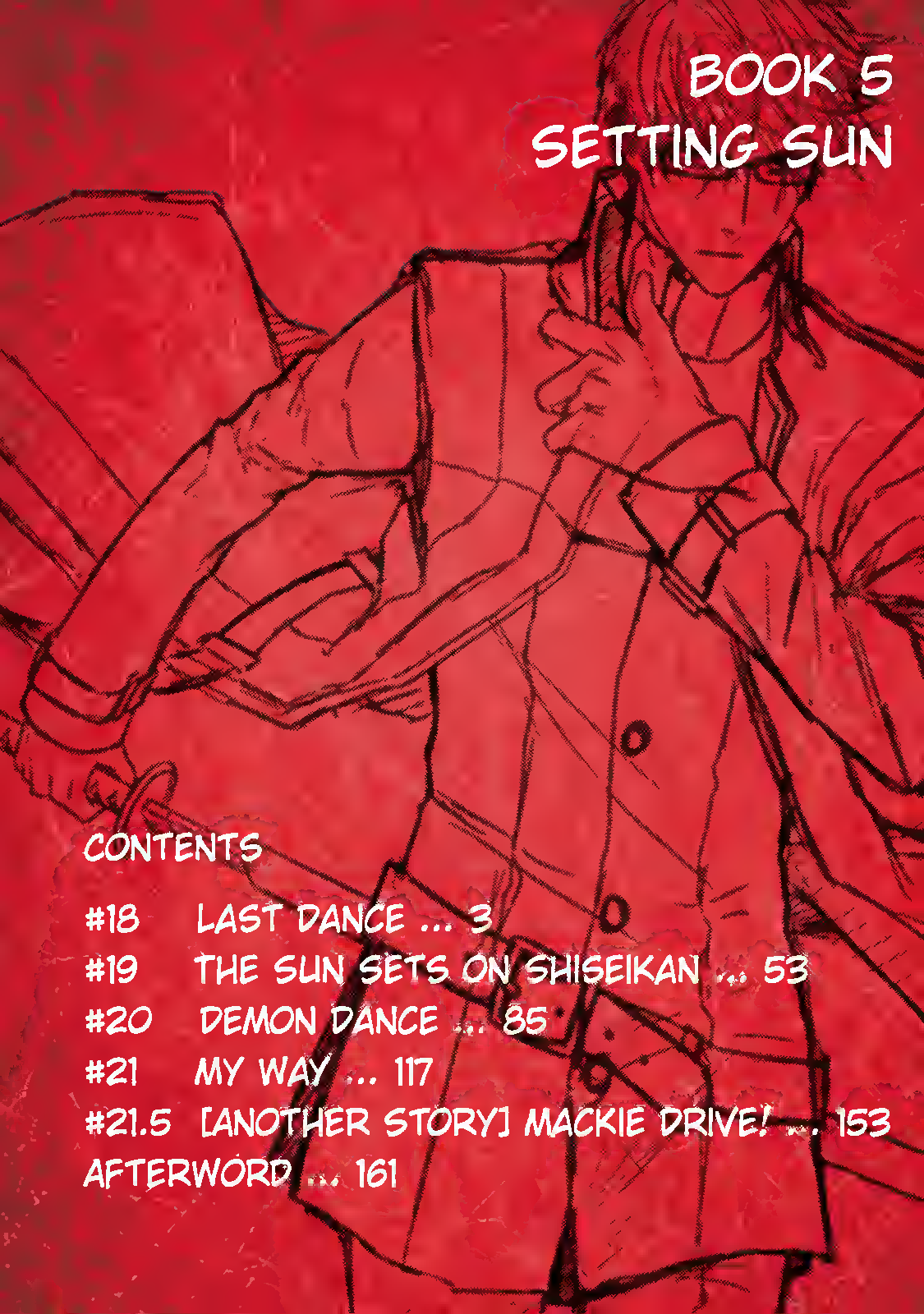
SAMURAI DRIVE

5

Fujiko Kosumi

SAMURAI DRIVE 3
FUJIKO KUSUMI



BOOK 5
SETTING SUN

CONTENTS

#18 LAST DANCE ... 3
#19 THE SUN SETS ON SHISEIKAN ... 53
#20 DEMON DANCE ... 85
#21 MY WAY ... 117
#21.5 [ANOTHER STORY] MACKIE DRIVE! ... 153
AFTERWORD ... 161

#18: LAST DANCE

Samurai Drive

CHARACTER PROFILE

A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT WHO TRANSFERRED TO SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS 1-1. HE CALLS HIMSELF "HARUMA'S COMRADE." HE IS ORIGINALLY FROM SHIGA PREFECTURE, AND HIS RESPECT FOR SEISHIRO DREW HIM TO TOKYO. HE LIVES IN THE SCHOOL DORMS AND WORKS PART-TIME TO PAY FOR HIS TUITION.

SHE'S A WEASEL THAT HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE AT SHISEIKAN. HARUMA TENDED TO HER WOUNDS, AND NOW SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HIM.

THE PROTAGONIST OF THE STORY, HARUMA IS A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL AND HE IS IN CLASS 1-1. HE IS RUMORED TO BE THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN IN HIS YEAR. THE MONSTROUS STRENGTH HE DISPLAYED DURING HIS SEARCH FOR HIS TEACHER'S KILLER SOON WON HIM THE NICKNAME "WHITE DAEMON." THAT SAID, HE'S CHRONICALLY SLEEPY AND IS A GUY OF FEW (ALMOST NO) WORDS. SO IT'S GENERALLY HARD TO TELL HE'S EVEN THERE AT ALL. THANKS TO IBUKI, HE'S STARTING TO SEEM A BIT MORE NORMAL.

THIS CLASSMATE OF HARUMA IS GENTLE AND COOL-HEADED, BUT DEEP DOWN HE'S A PASSIONATE YOUNG MAN AND A HUGE JIN FAN. REN'S THE FRIEND HE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET RID OF.

THIS CLASSMATE OF HARUMA IS VERY IMPULSIVE, PASSIONATE, AND EASILY MOVED TO TEARS. HE'S ALSO NOT VERY TOUGH IN THE PAST, HARUMA HAS WIPED THE FLOOR WITH HIM.

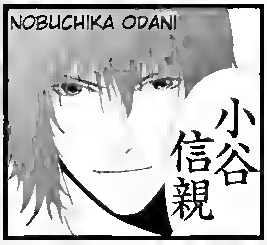
HE IS HARUMA'S OLDER BROTHER. HIS FATHER IS A FERVENT OPPONENT OF WEARING SWORDS, AND YUKINARI ACTS AS HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, PROVIDING SUPPORT BEHIND THE SCENES. SINCE HIS BROTHER HARUMA IS STILL DEVOTED TO SEISHIRO, HE'S ON BAD TERMS WITH HIM.

A MYSTERIOUS SWORDSMAN THAT HARASSED HARUMA. NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM AT THIS POINT, BUT FROM THE WAY HE TALKS, IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS HE'S A WEIRDO.

A GIFTED SWORDSMAN WHO WAS MURDERED TWO YEARS AGO AT THE AGE OF 23. HE WAS HARUMA'S MENTOR. JUST BEFORE HE DIED, HE KILLED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, AN ACT WHICH DESTROYED HIS REPUTATION AFTER HIS DEATH

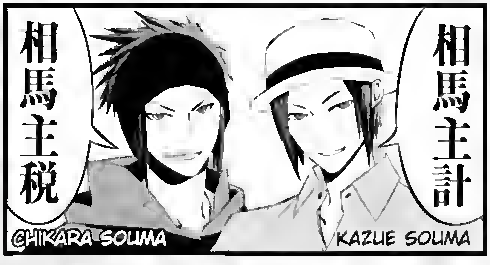
HE IS A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN AND THE SCHOOL'S STRONGEST SWORDSMAN. HE AND HARUMA WERE BOTH SEISHIRO'S DISCIPLES. HE DOTES ON HARUMA AND LOOKS OUT FOR HIM, BUT IT ANNOYS HARUMA.

THIS SWORDSMAN ATTENDS A REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL IN THE NORTHERN KANTO REGION. HE IS FIGHTING TO PROVE THE INNOCENCE OF HIS BROTHER NOBUCHIKA. HE COMPLETELY SPOILS HIS YOUNGER SISTER, ITSUKI.



HE WAS SEISHIRO'S CLOSE FRIEND AND ALLY. HE IS ON DEATH ROW FOR MURDER.

A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN, HE IS JIN'S QUIET, COURTEOUS PARTNER. AMONG THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS, ONLY JIN IS MORE SKILLED WITH A SWORD. HE'S RESOLVED TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO JIN.



THESE BROTHERS ARE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS WHO ARE CALLED THE "TWIN DEVILS." THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS THE OLDER BROTHER CHIKARA, AND ONE ON THE RIGHT IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER, KAZUE.

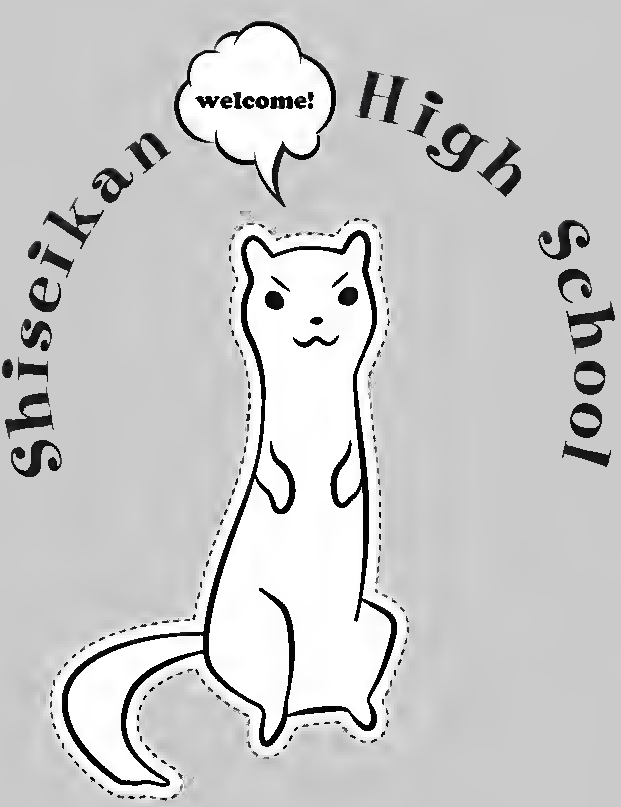
STORY OUTLINE

AFTER THE MEIJI RESTORATION, THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT ALLOWED THE SAMURAI TO CONTINUE TO BEAR SWORDS. THIS PRACTICE HAS CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT, BUT THE SAMURAI ARE CONSIDERED TO BE AN ANACHRONISM. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE NOW FAVORS FACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS THAT AIM TO BAN THE CARRYING OF SWORDS.

THE FAMOUS ALL-BOYS SCHOOL "SHISEIKAN" STANDS QUIETLY IN THE SHIBUYA WARD OF TOKYO. A PLACE WHERE THE CHILDREN OF SWORD-BEARING CLASS GATHER, THIS IS ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING SCHOOLS FOR SWORDSMEN.

HARUMA KOKONOE, A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT THIS SCHOOL, IS SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH BEHIND AN INCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO THAT SULLIED THE NAME AND LEAD TO THE MURDER OF HIS MENTOR, SEISHIRO SHINDO. TOGETHER WITH HIS CLASSMATE, IBUKI TAKAHARA, WHO ALSO BELIEVES IN THE INNOCENCE OF SEISHIRO SHINDO, HARUMA HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR CLUES TO CLEAR HIS MENTOR'S NAME.

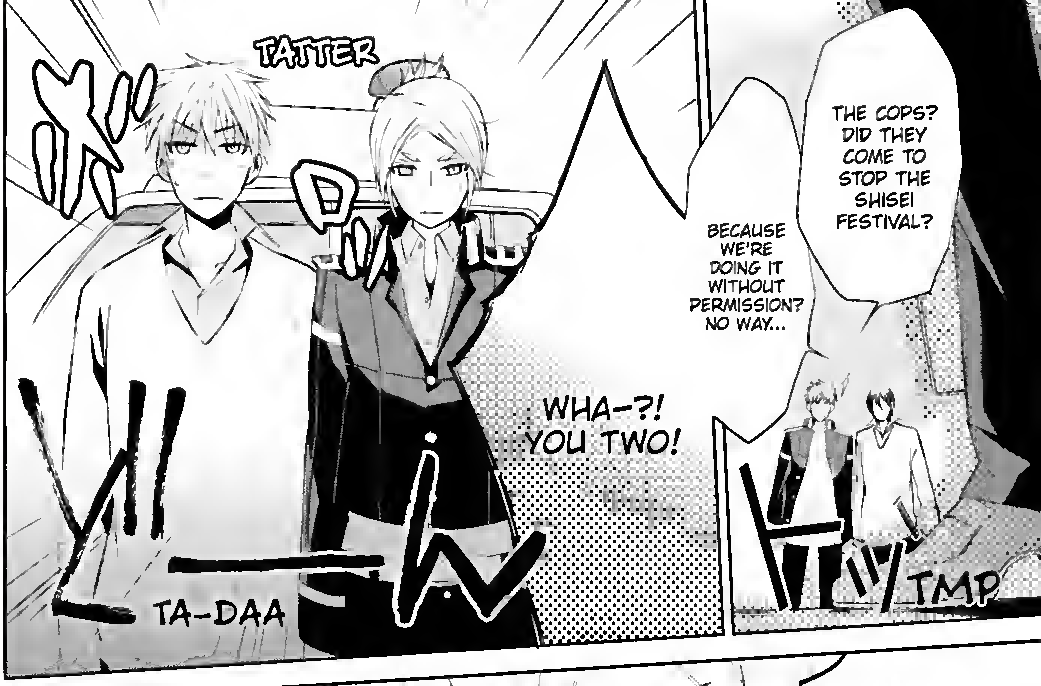
FALL HAS COME, AND THE STUDENTS OF SHISEIKAN ARE PREPARING FOR A TRADITIONAL ANNUAL EVENT CALLED THE "SHISEI FESTIVAL." AMIDST THE COMMOTION, JIN SAITO REVEALED THAT SEISHIRO MURDERED EXTREMISTS OF THE SWORD-BEARING CLASS. UNABLE TO ACCEPT THAT FACT, IBUKI DISAPPEARED. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER CLASSMATES AND IBUKI'S OLD FRIENDS, HARUMA WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING IBUKI BACK FROM HIS HOME IN SHIGA.



Samurai Drive

Fujiko Kosumi

YAAAAH
I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 123RD SHISEI FESTIVAL!
NOW...
THANK YOU.
BANG
BANG BANG
至誠祭
SHISEI FESTIVAL
第一二三回
123RD
PSST
YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE...
HMM?
IT'S ALREADY STARTED!
もう始まってるんだけど
PSST
WHAT IS HE DOING ?!
HEY, WHERE'S HARUMA?
HE'S NOT HERE YET
警視庁
?!
SKREEE


TATTER
THE COPS? DID THEY COME TO STOP THE SHISEI FESTIVAL?
BECAUSE WE'RE DOING IT WITHOUT PERMISSION? NO WAY...
WHA-?! YOU TWO!
TA-DAA
TMP

HOW'D YOU GET ARRESTED? WHAT DID YOU DO?!
You do understand we're in the middle of the Shisei Festival, right?
I DON'T GET IT!
WE...
..KEPT OUR PROMISE. That's all.
And we're back.
GLINNT

WHAT?! YOU HAVE TO KEEP A PROMISE TO YOUR FRIENDS?!
PHWEET
HEY!!
ZOOOOM
?
WELL...
I WENT AT HOME FOR A CERTAIN REASON, AND TO GET BACK HERE WE WERE TEARING DOWN THE ROAD ON A MOPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THEN THE COPS PICKED US UP BECAUSE OF THAT.
BUT WE EXPLAINED WHAT WAS GOING ON, AND HE WAS REALLY MOVED BY OUR STORY, SO HE GAVE US A LIFT.
WOW! LEAVE IT TO MEEE!
THE FUTURE OF SHISEIKAN IS RESTING ON YOU - SHOULDERS?!

FLIK
THANK YOU!
WELL, BOYS! DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT! BREAK A LEG!

FROM SHIGA TO TOKYO IN A MATTER OF ONE NIGHT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE AND WHY DID YOU GO CLEAR BACK TO SHIGA?
WHAAAT?
YOUR STORY HAS SO MANY HOLES IN IT.
A LOT OF STUFF HAPPENED.
BUT...
THANKS
HARUMA. .
...AND YOU GUYS CAME FOR ME.
LET'S DO OUR BEST IN THE SHISEI FESTIVAL...
...TOGETHER!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SHOULD THANK US! WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU!
BESIDES! WHO RUNS AWAY RIGHT BEFORE THE BIG DAY? ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE LATE!
OW!
SMAK
SHUT UP! IF YOU WANT TO TALK BIG, YOU BETTER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN LOTS OF GUESTS TO COME ALREADY!
SO THING'S BETTER BE LOOKING PRETTY LIVELY NOW.
SLAPP
HAH! DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US! COME ON!
WHAT?! SERIOUSLY?!
You got that many?!
THAT'S RIGHT! BEHOLD! IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM!
BOWNCE

WHOOO
THIS...
...TRAGEDY!
RSSLE
SEE?
WAITER, WITH NOTHING TO DO
CHIRP CHIRP
BORED GUIDE
CAFE 2-3 THIS WAY!
YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A SWORDSMAN!
PLEASE COME TO THE SHISEI FESTIVAL...
NO, SHOO! GO AWAY! SWORD MEN!
HEY!
AHHHH
BOPP
BUT LISTEN!
WE REALLY TRIED TO GATHER PEOPLE BEFOREHAND!
BUT PEOPLE ARE REALLY NEGATIVE TOWARD SWORDSMEN IN THIS DAY AND AGE - WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHANCE.
EEEK
KRUSH
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WE'RE SORRY! WE'RE SO SORRY. WE JUST WANT TO DISAPPEAR
HIC
SNIFF
THERE'S NOT EVEN THREE PEOPLE HERE!
JUST END IT WITH A SWORD.

THE SHISEI FESTIVAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TRADITIONAL AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT.
THIS MAY BE THE LAST ONE.
ROKUSHO...
I CAN'T FACE OUR ALUMNI AND PRESIDENT MINAMOTO!
AHHH
KLAK
WAAAAAH
D-DON'T CRY, ROKUSHO!
....
KLAK
FWSSH
HMMM
HEY! STOP THAT, HARUMA!
とみえてしまう目つきの悪さ。
THAT'S HOW SCARY HE LOOKS.
?
GLAARE
HMM?
OH?
JERK
IBUKI.
KIDS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

TRMMP
OH! HEY!
WHAT'S UP, LITTLE GUYS?
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
DID YOU COME TO VISIT?
PSST
BOINNK

HEY!
DID YOU MOM AND DAD TELL YOU TO COME CHECK THIS OUT?
RMMBLE
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT WITH JUST KIDS?
NO, THEY'RE SPYING.
HUH? REALLY?!
POP
UHH...
GOOD WITH KIDS.
GEEZ
KREEEP
HEY...
YOU NEED TO STOP THAT. DON'T CROWD AROUND THEM.

!

AND HIDE!
ZAAH
!
MMMM

AWW...
TOO BAD.
?
PHEW

IF YOU COME TO SHISEIKAN TODAY...
PLOP
!
YOU CAN EAT LOTS OF DELICIOUS THINGS AND DO LOTS OF FUN STUFF.
HERE, A SPECIAL TREAT JUST FOR YOU.

BUT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT.
RIGHT?
PEEK
GASP
!

YEAH!
TOO BAD! IT'S SUCH A SHAME.
....

IF WE COME HERE...
CAN WE SEE YOUR PET AGAIN?
Pet?
GO HARUMA!
YOU CAN DO IT!
YES.
BUT...
...ONLY...
...TODAY.
DASSH
WAIT! WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
SHISEI FESTIVAL
HEY!
BRING LOTS OF GROWNUPS WITH YOU.

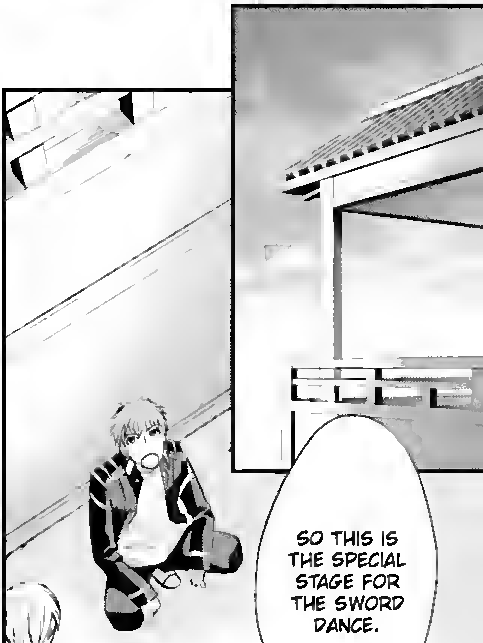
GAH!
IT'S THE UPPER-CLASSMEN.
WHAT?!
FIRST YEARS! ARE YOU TAKING OUR FESTIVAL SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE RUINING OUR TRADITION!
THE SHISEI FESTIVAL ISN'T A GAME FOR LITTLE KIDS.
WE'RE IN A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE HATE SWORDS! EVERYONE'S AFRAID! TO GET THEM TO COME, WE HAVE TO BE KIND LIKE THAT.
HEY!
IBUKI!
YOU'RE THE ONES THAT AREN'T TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY
I MEAN, C'MON. NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO GET PEOPLE TO WATCH, OR THIS IS ALL POINTLESS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE GET THAT CHANCE.
WE JUST NEED PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING GREAT ABOUT THE SHISEI FESTIVAL AND SWORDS THEMSELVES. WE'LL SHOW THEM.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS SHISEI FESTIVAL TO BE THE LAST, RIGHT?
SO GET OUT THERE AND GATHER PEOPLE!

UGH...
FIRST YEARS!
DASSH
FOLLOW US!
SOME GREAT STUFF HERE!
YOU CAN EAT..
HERE YOU GO!
THESE ARE ALL THE GOOD LOOKING GUYS OF SHISEIKAN!
COME SEE THE...
...PRINCES OF SHISEIKAN!
NICE
WOW!
WHEN YOU CAN SEE AND TOUCH SWORDS!
BEEP
RIIIING
SHISEIKAN IS THE ONLY PLACE
WHAT AN IDIOT.
WHAT'S THAT IDIOT DOING?
PSST

PSSST
THE EVENT IS GOING WELL.
THE SHISEIKAN STUDENTS ARE ACTUALLY REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
THE PINK ILLUMINATION GRAND PRIX STARTS AT 4PM!
WELCOME TO THE WARRING STATES CAFE!
WELCOME!
WHAT?!
AND...
I THOUGHT THEY'RE JUST A SCARY BUNCH OF SWORD-BEARERS.
DO YOU WANT TO STAY FOR THE MAIN EVENT? THE SWORD DANCE IS AT THE VERY END.
HUH?
UGH
THE GUESTS SEEM TO BE REACTING POSITIVELY.
SNIFF
I'M SO GLAD!
CLIKK
WE HAVE MORE WORK TO DO.

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.
WE NEED TO TEACH PEOPLE MORE ABOUT THE SWORD.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SWORD DANCE, HARUMA?
剣舞の準備は!
十千重
HA HA
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL BUDDIES NOW.
CHITTER
LEMME SEE!
みせて
LEMME SEE!
みせて
CHATTER


SO THIS IS THE SPECIAL STAGE FOR THE SWORD DANCE.
WOW, IT'S HUGE...
It's totally different...
AS EXPECTED FROM A FAMOUS SCHOOL...

なんか
THAT SOUNDS COOL!
OH, SO YOU GUYS ARE DOING THAT THING CALLED SWORD DANCE, LIKE YOUR TEACHERS DID?

FWIPP
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S TAKING HAJIME SO LONG?
FIGIT
KIDS SAY THE CRAZIEST THINGS WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
HUH?! OH YEAH!
YEAH, I WONDER TOO!
WHY DON'T PEOPLE LIKE YOU GUYS MORE?
YOU'RE ALL SO NICE?
YOU DON'T KNOW? THERE WAS A BAD GUY. BUT HE DIED.
....
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO BRING IN MORE PEOPLE THAN ANYBODY AND-
EVERY-ONE!
!
WAIT... HAJIME!
WHOA!
GREAT TIMING!
I, HAJIME KANEDA, HAVE RETURNED!

WOW! WHAT A HUGE GROUP!
I'M IMPRESSED!
見直したぜ お前!
YES.
I WENT AROUND TALKING TO PEOPLE, AND THEY WERE HAPPY TO JOIN. THAT'S WHY I GUIDED THEM HERE...
DRIP
THESE PEOPLE ARE WITH THE ANTI-SWORD MOVEMENT.
THEY'RE HERE TO STOP US.

YOU IDIOT!
KANEDA, YOU FOOL!
金田ァ!!
SPLAT
OOF!
YOU...
oh
AH...
HA HAA...
LIKK

EVERYONE! THE SHISEI FESTIVAL IS OVER- EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
PEOPLE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SCHOOL SHOULD LEAVE NOW.
?!
HUH? WHAT DOES HE MEAN "LEAVE"?
PSST
ANTI-SWORD ACTIVISTS?
NOW, HURRY.
!
HEY!
LUNGE
SHINK
SNIKK
HEY! GET YOUR HANDS OFF HER!

PSST
THEY'RE REALLY AFRAID OF US FOR SOME REASON...
YOU KNOW...
HUH? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT IDEA?
I JUST TOUCHED IT A LITTLE!
BAAA
N-NO...
YOU TAKE YOUR HAND OFF YOUR SWORD!
ARE YOU THREATENING A CIVILIAN?
OF COURSE WE ARE! A GROUP OF SWORD-BEARERS ARE IGNORING ORDERS AND HOLDING A GATHERING WITHOUT PERMISSION!
NOT ONLY THAT, YOU WERE ABOUT TO DRAW YOUR SWORD ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS!
DON'T YOU REALIZE?!
YOU ARE SEEN AS A RISK TO SOCIETY THAT MUST BE CONTROLLED!

KLANK
SWOOP
WHAT?!
STOP RIGHT THERE.
TMP
...MY FRIENDS.
PLEASE LEAVE THE REST TO US...
TMP
TM

A SWORD-BEARER?
WHY IS THERE A SWORDSMAN WITH THE ANTI-SWORD GROUP?!
THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
THESE PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE SORRY STATE OF MODERN SWORD-BEARERS AND HAVE LENT US THEIR SUPPORT.
OF COURSE THESE FINE PEOPLE ARE WORRIED.
IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE SWORDSMEN AND WE STAND WITH THOSE WHO WANT TO REVOKE THE SWORD-BEARING PRIVILEGE...
...THAT WE CANNOT IGNORE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND HAVE RISEN TO ACTION.
I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT SHISEIKAN.
AFTER ALL, IT IS THE SCHOOL THAT VILLAIN SEISHIRO SHINDO GRADUATED FROM.
!

SEISHIRO ISN'T-
WE AREN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
AND NEITHER WAS SEISHIRO SHINDO!
WHAT HE DID WAS WRONG, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYTHING HE THOUGHT WAS.
IBUKI...
I CANNOT ALLOW...
...YOUR RAVINGS TO DEFILE THE HONOR OF THOSE WHO WIELD SWORDS ANY FURTHER.
THE SHAME OF SWORDSMEN MUST BE DEALT WITH BY OTHER SWORDSMEN.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUBBORN ABOUT IT...

OH, LET'S JUST GO HOME...
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.
田舎に帰るよ!
ああ
YEAH!
W-WAIT!
TMP
PSST
PSST
PSST
TMP
EVERYONE, PLEASE EVACUATE THE PREMISES.
DON'T WORRY.
OUR COMRADES WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
AHHHH!
STAY STILL!
LET ME GO!
STOP!
WE JUST WANTED TO MAKE THE SHISEI FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!
STAY CALM! IF YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD, YOU'RE PLAYING INTO THEIR HANDS!
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE FESTIVAL?! WE'RE JUST...
DAMMIT! WHAT'S WITH THEM?!
WARRING STATES CAFE

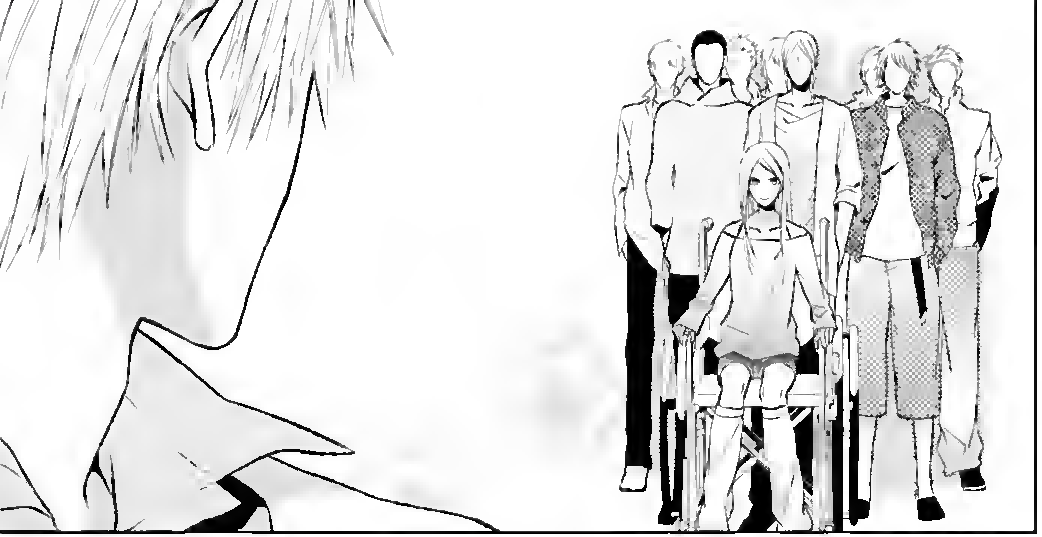
WHA...?
THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
GRIPP
POOM
HEY!
STOP IT! IT'S DANGEROUS!
POOM
YEAH! YOU'RE BEING A BIG BULLY!
YOU'RE THE BAD GUYS!
MOVE!
OUT OF MY WAY!
UGH...
WHY YOU...
FLIP

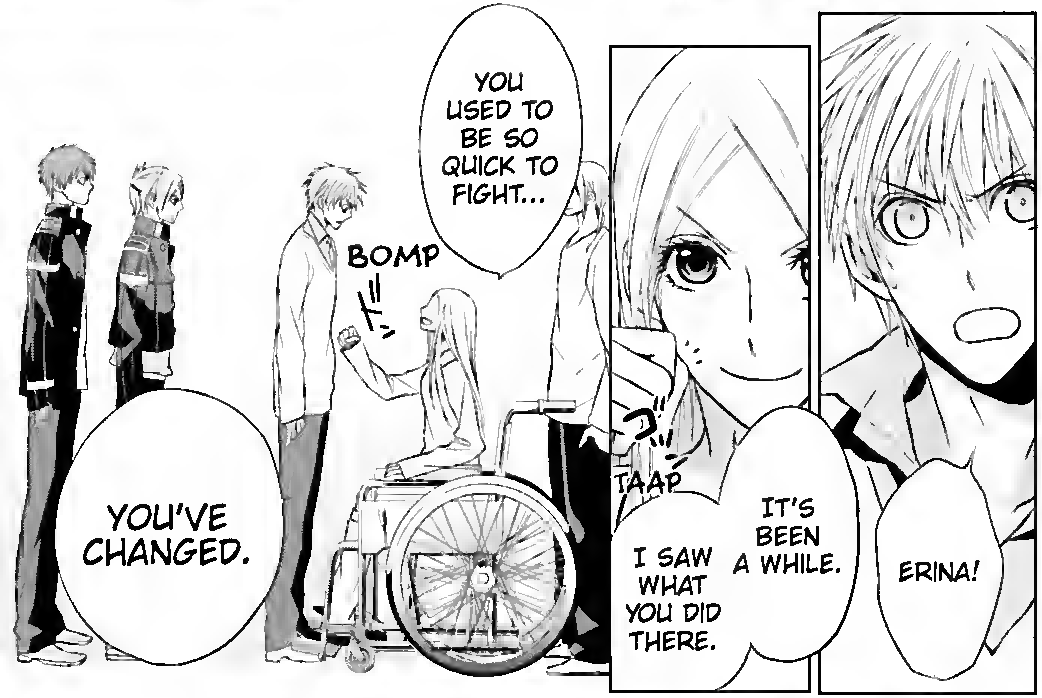
SMAK
SNIIIKK
SNIIIKK
HE DREW HIS SWORD!
抜いた!!
HEY!
HEY!
びえぇ
WAAH
Ha ha.
SO, WHO ARE THE OUT-OF-CONTROL SWORDSMEN NOW?
SWIPE
!
GRR
FWSSH
IF THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE, LET'S DO THIS!
DON'T DRAW!
WE CAN'T ATTACK THEM!
HUH?!
WHAT ELSE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

THWWOK
?!
Y-YOSHICHIKA ODANI?!

AND...
...ODANI'S GOONS!
PEEK
AND EVEN ITSUKI!
DA-DAA
WHY?
WE WERE GATHERING PEOPLE..
...FOR SHISEI FESTIVAL.
EVERYONE WANTED TO STICK UP FOR SWORDSMEN.
THE FUTURE OF SWORDSMEN DEPENDS...
...ON THE SUCCESS OF SHISEI FESTIVAL, RIGHT?

HELLO!
YOU GUYS...
BAM
SLAMM
YO!
WHO IS THE FOOL WHO DARES TO LAY A FINGER ON MY HARUMA?!
K-KASUGA?!
AND HER GANGLAND BUDDIES?!
HARUMA! SORRY I'M LATE!
YUKARI...
PSST
YOU'RE NEVER HONEST WITH YOURSELF, ODANI
GO OUT ON HER OWN!
I CAN'T LEAVE LIKE ITSUKI
PSST
DID YOU GATHER PEOPLE FOR US?
IBUKI.
HA-HA HA




YOU USED TO BE SO QUICK TO FIGHT...
BOMP
YOU'VE CHANGED.
TAAP
I SAW WHAT YOU DID THERE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
ERINA!

YEAH...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, ERINA AND EVERYONE TOO...
NOW THEN...
NOW THAT WE'VE SETTLED THINGS HERE...
TMP
AHHHH
あああああ
IF YOU KEEP TRASH AS YOUR COMPANY, YOUR HIGH AND MIGHTY OPINION MEANS NOTHING.
TELL YOUR BOSS...

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS...
I WONDER...
いろいろイミゴ
...ARE WE GONNA BE PUNISHED FOR IT SOMEHOW?
後でおしおきとか……
KEEP GOING.
AHHHH
SKWEEZE
HUH?
THE REGULAR ATTENDEES ARE MOSTLY GONE...
...BUT WE SAW WHAT YOU DID AND WE SUPPORT YOU.
IF THIS IS ALL IT TAKES TO STOP YOU, THEN YOUR CONVICTION WASN'T MUCH TO BEGIN WITH.

おお!
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S RESUME!
NOW, LET'S DO THIS OVER!
WELCOME TO THE SHISEI FESTIVAL!
WELCOME! CLASS 1-1 WARRING STATES CAFE
戦国
HEE HEE. WE'LL GIVE YOU A VERY ATTENTIVE PERSONAL LESSON.
POOM
OOF
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME USING A REAL SWORD? I GUESS SO
BLACKSMITH
鍛冶屋
THIS IS HOW WE FORGE SWORDS...
KLANG
KLANG
HERE WE GO!
WHAT A CRAFTSMAN!
WOW!
HOW AMAZING!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.

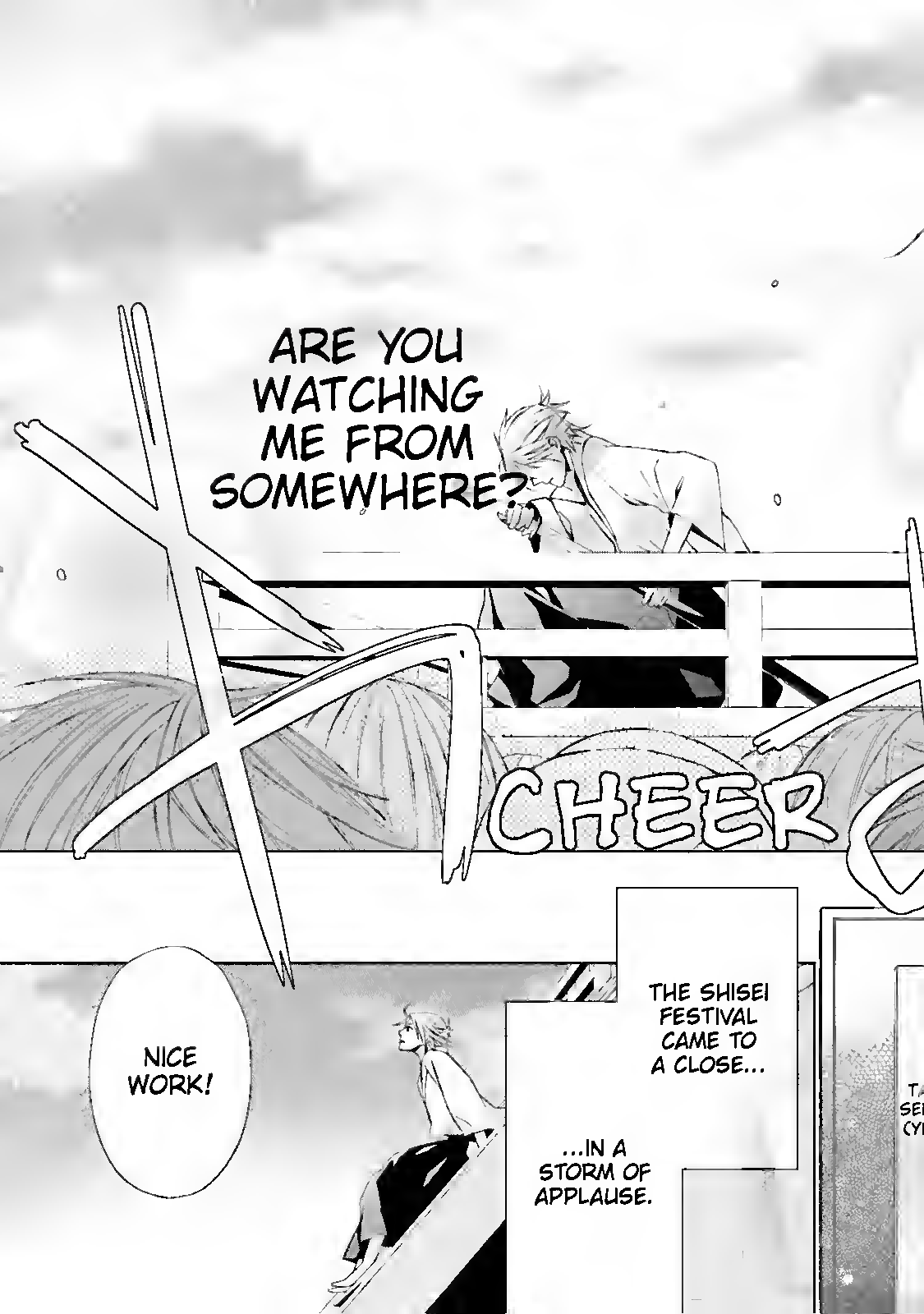
54TH PINK CARNATION GRAND PRIX
THE MVP, PRINCE OF PINK IS...
...PRINCE! FROM CLASS 2-3!
THANK YOU!
ありがとう!
54TH PINK CARNATION GRAND PRIX
WAS THERE A POINT TO US DRESSING IN DRAG?!
YOU LOOK CUTE, IBUKI!
WHAT?
WE ALREADY KNEW WHO WAS GOING TO WIN!
WISH GRANTED!
CUTE!!
KLINK
WOW!
PUBLIC LESSON
KREEK
KLIK
WOW!
I WANNA JOIN IN THAT.
KLIK
AWESOME!

WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE MAIN EVENT OF THE SHISEI FESTIVAL, THE SWORD DANCE.
SEISHIRO USED TO SAY...
THE SHISEI FESTIVAL IS A VALUABLE PLACE...
...FOR PEOPLE LEARN THE HEART OF THE SWORD.
HE WANTED TO PROTECT IT.
NUMBER THREE... REPRESENT-ING CLASS 1-1, HARUMA KOKONOE.
HE WONDERED IF I WOULD STAND ON THIS STAGE SOMEDAY.

I THINK THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WHEN I WAS ON MY OWN.
THEN I LOST SEISHIRO.
NOW... BUT...
WOWW
SO GRACE-FUL.
YEAH.
I AM STANDING HERE.
TMP
THANKS TO SO MANY PEOPLE...
THEY SAY SWORDSMEN PREFORMED THE SWORD DANCE TO STEEL THEMSELVES BEFORE BATTLE.
SOMEHOW...

SEISHIRO
ARE YOU WATCHING ME FROM SOMEWHERE?
CHEER
I CAN SEE THAT WHEN I SEE HIS DANCE.
AREN'T YOU GLAD WE STUCK AROUND FOR THIS?
YEAH!
AND THUS...
THE SHISEI FESTIVAL CAME TO A CLOSE...
...IN A STORM OF APPLAUSE.
NICE WORK!
最優秀 FIRST PLACE: HARUMA KOKONOE (YEAR 1)
優秀 RUNNERS-UP: CHIKARA SOUMA (YEAR 2)
TASUKU SERIZAWA (YEAR 3)

SEISHIRO
AND THUS...
最優秀
FIRST PLACE: HARUMA KOKONOE (YEAR 1)
優秀
RUNNERS-UP: CHIKARA SOUMA (YEAR 2)
I CAN SEE THAT WHEN I SEE HIS DANCE.
AREN'T YOU GLAD WE STUCK AROUND FOR THIS?
YEAH!

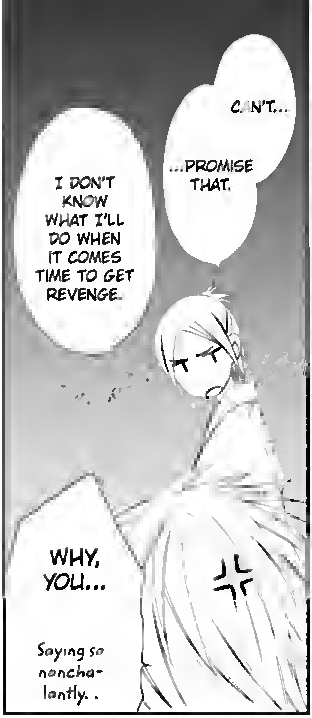

ARE YOU WATCHING ME FROM SOMEWHERE?
CHEER
NICE WORK!
THE SHISEI FESTIVAL CAME TO A CLOSE...
...IN A STORM OF APPLAUSE.

CONGRATS ON GETTING FIRST PLACE.
IBUKI.
TMP
YOUR DANCE WAS REALLY STIRRING - ALL THE GIRLS WERE CHEERING FOR YOU! HOW WAS IT?
HOW WAS IT?
I JUST WANTED...
...SEISHIRO TO SEE IT...
AH
...SEISHIRO...
...IS TABOO NOW.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE AN APOLOGY?
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE!
DON'T TRY AND ACT LIKE SEISHIRO'S NAME IS A DIRTY WORD.
THMMP
THAT JUST ENDS UP STRESSING ME OUT.
....
CAN I ASK...
...SOMETHING?
SURE.
WHAT WAS THAT?

WHY DID YOU...
WE AREN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
AND NEITHER WAS SEISHIRO SHINDO!
...STICK UP FOR SEISHIRO?
OH...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
I CAN'T TRUST SEISHIRO ANYMORE BECAUSE HE'S A MURDERER, NO MATTER WHAT HIS JUSTIFICATION WAS.
THIS WAS THE PATH OF "RIGHTEOUSNESS" SEISHIRO CHOSE TO DEFEND PEOPLE AND THE SWORD.
THAT PART STILL HASN'T CHANGED. I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT- EVEN IF HE WAS UP AGAINST THE EXTREMISTS.
....
BUT...
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
HE TAUGHT ME A LOT.
AND I KNOW WHAT HE TAUGHT ME IS TRUE.

HIS METHODS WERE WRONG.
BUT I'M NOT A KID ANY-MORE...
THE REASON THINGS ENDED UP THAT WAY...
...AND HIS BELIEFS THEMSELVES WEREN'T WRONG. THAT, I DO UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S WHY...
WHOA!
ZASSH
SKWIISH

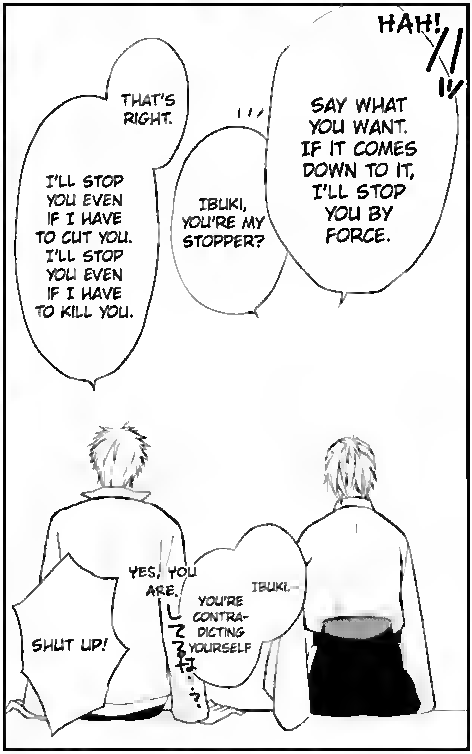
A FRIEND BY MY SIDE...
....
WHAT?
A FRIEND THAT UNDERSTANDS ME. THAT ALONE...
IT MAKES ME STRONGER, AND GIVES ME THE STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD.
WE'RE COMRADES?
...INSPIRES ME.
....
YEAH...
....
JUST LIKE YOU.
WHAT SEISHIRO TAUGHT ME...
...IS EVERYTHING TO ME NOW.
I'LL CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THAT.
WELL ...
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO WHEN IT COMES TIME TO GET REVENGE.
C...N'T...
...PROMISE THAT.
WHY, YOU...
Saying so nonchalantly..

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE COMRADES, I'LL ONLY HELP YOU FIND SEISHIRO'S KILLER. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN REVENGE.
BESIDES, HARUMA ..!
IF YOU'RE TEAMING WITH ME, THEN YOU CAN'T TURN INTO WHITE DAEMON FROM HERE ON OUT!
LIKE TEACHER, LIKE STUDENT! YOU'RE ALL SO QUICK TO DRAW YOUR SWORD!
HRMM

IT'S CREEPING ME OUT!
GAH! WHAT'S WITH THIS MOOD?!

CHATTER
HMM? WHOA!
CHATTER
WHAT?
CLEANING UP
NOTHING. JUST LOOK AT THAT. IT'S A RARE SIGHT.


HAH!
SAY WHAT YOU WANT. IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I'LL STOP YOU BY FORCE.
IBUKI, YOU'RE MY STOPPER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'LL STOP YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO CUT YOU. I'LL STOP YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL YOU.
IBUKI,
YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF
YES, YOU ARE.
SHUT UP!

THEY'RE LAUGHING.
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A YEAR WHEN WE WERE THIS UNITED IN PURPOSE.
PEOPLE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL FOR YEARS TO COME.
EVEN IF THIS FESTIVAL IS OUR LAST...
....
THAT WAS ONE OF THE BEST SHISEI FESTIVALS IN RECENT YEARS.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF EVERYONE'S HELP. YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

ALL JOKES ASIDE...
WHO WAS THAT MAN WITH THE ANTI-SWORD GROUP
WHO WAS HE? HE SEEMED A LITTLE OFF.
DOES ANYONE KNOW?
誰か知ってる？
BEATS ME. A POLITICIAN OR SOMETHING? I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM THOUGH.
YOU DON'T LIKE HOW YOU'LL STAY RANKED AT THE BOTTOM FOR THE SWORD DANCE?
SMRRK
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
I KNOW I KNOW
HAH! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OUR LAST"?
SERIZAWA...
I WON'T LET IT BE THE LAST...!

JIN?
....
JIN.
THAT MAN...
NO...
RIGHT NOW...
IT'S NOTHING, HIDEHITO.

...LET'S JUST ENJOY THE MOMENT.
THEY ALL HAD SMILES ON THEIR FACES.
YUKINARI?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO SEE THEM DIRECTLY?
YOUNG MEN SO FULL OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM.
THEIR HOPEFUL FACES WERE TRULY...

...REVOLTING.
ENJOY THE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT, REMNANTS OF THE OLD WORLD.
YOUR END...

...IS OUR BEGINNING.
AS EACH...
... OF US FOLLOWS THE COURSE WE BELIEVE IN.
AND WE DRIVE ON...
... TO THE END.

EVEN IF WE LOSE SOMETHING ALONG THE WAY.
END

#19: THE SUN SETS ON SHISEIKAN

KLIK
THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS IN THE LARGE-SCALE STUDENT PROTESTS AT SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL...
KLIK
...HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER ARREST.
KLIK
IN ADDITION, ONE OF THE STUDENTS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF SPREADING HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES WAS A STUDENT OF SEISHIRO SHINDO.
THE SHISEI FESTIVAL SUPPOSEDLY ENDED IN "SUCCESS."
BUT A GREAT PRICE WAS PAID.
THERE THEY ARE!

THEIR VERY EXISTENCE IS A THREAT TO US!

WE WERE ABLE TO STOP THIS RIOT THIS TIME, BUT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE WERE HURT IN THE PROCESS.
THIS KIND OF SWORD-RELATED VIOLENCE IN AN ERA WHERE A BAN ON BEARING SWORDS IS DRAWING NEAR, IS TRULY THE IDEALS OF SEISHIRO SHINDO IN PRACTICE.
SLAMM
KLENCH
AS SWORDSMEN... WE CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.
THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HAPPENED.
THIS THREAT TO US...
...COULD ALSO BECOME A THREAT TO YOU...
...AT ANY TIME.
WHAT IS THIS?

WHILE BEING AN INFLUENTIAL SWORD-BEARER, HE IS SUPPORTIVE OF THE SWORD CONTROL MOVEMENT.
KLIK
KLAK
THIS IS UNFOR-GIVEABLE!
WE HAVE TO GET JIN BACK TOGETHER!
HE SEEKS FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE SWORD CONTROL MOVEMENT TO ESTABLISH A LAW THAT LIMITS THE SWORD-BEARING PRIVILEGE TO ONLY A CERTAIN GR OUP OF SWORD-BEARERS, WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL SWORD-BEARING PRIVILEGE."
THIS IS TOO UNFAIR!
GATHER!

TO SHISEIKAN!
STOMMP
WE'RE NOT MOVING A STEP UNTIL U JIN COMES BACK!
PSSST
WHAT?
HEY, IBUKI.
PSST
YEAH!
PSST
UHH...
PSST
PSST
YEAH!
HARUMA IS GONE...
WHAT?

YUKINARI ...
LET ME OUT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO BACK TO SHISEIKAN.
MY FRIENDS ...
...ARE WAITING.
JUST STAY HERE.
WHO GAVE YOU...
...THE RIGHT TO DECIDE?!
WHY?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS RESIST?

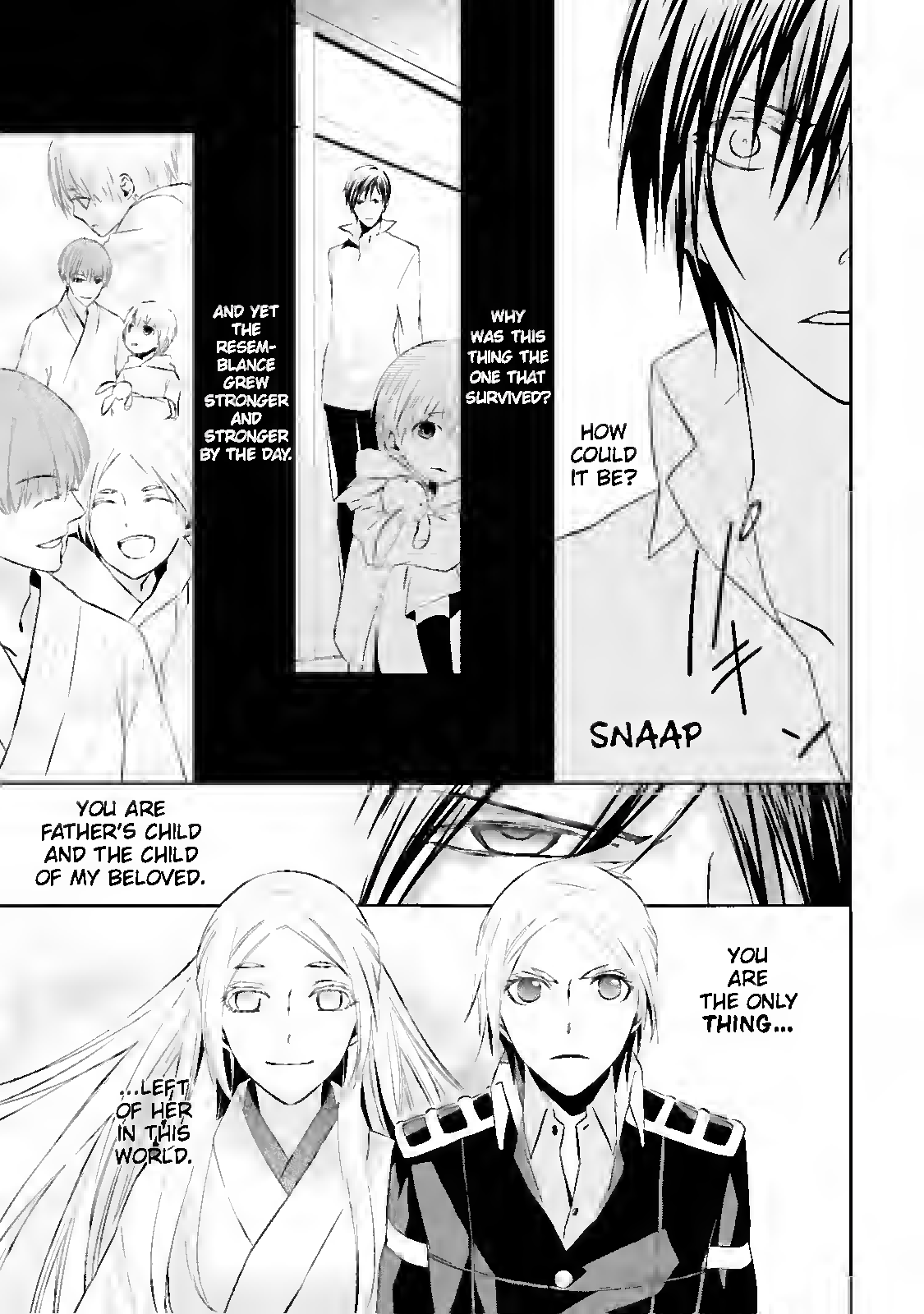
I HAVE TO HURRY
YUKINARI ...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS ...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS MEDDLING WITH ME?
IF I'M AN EMBAR-RASS-MENT ...
...JUST LET ME BE.
...TO WHERE EVERYONE IS
MY IMPATIENCE TURNED INTO FRUSTRATION
SO...
...WHY?
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO ASK.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU HATE ME?

WHEN I WAS NINE AND SHE WAS EIGHTEEN...

...I WAS NEVER ABLE TO THINK OF HER AS A MOTHER.
SHE WILL BE YOUR MOTHER FROM TODAY.
NOT ONCE...
SHE...
SHE WAS...
AHHHH!

AMANE!
LEAVE MY CHILD ALONE!
MA'AM!
HE'S GOT HARUMA!
STOP!
NO!
PLEASE DON'T!
TAKE ME INSTEAD.

SLASH
NOOOO!
SHE LIVED HER LIFE LIKE A SAMURAI.
AND CHOSE DEATH WITHOUT HESITATION.
WHAT...
...ARE YOU SAYING?


HOW COULD IT BE?
SNAAP
WHY WAS THIS THING THE ONE THAT SURVIVED?
AND YET THE RESEM-BLANCE GREW STRONGER AND STRONGER BY THE DAY.
YOU ARE FATHER'S CHILD AND THE CHILD OF MY BELOVED.
YOU ARE THE ONLY THING...
...LEFT OF HER IN THIS WORLD.

YOU ARE THE MOST HATEFUL...
YOU SHOULD LOOK TO ME AND NO ONE ELSE.

...AND BEAUTIFUL THING IN THIS WORLD- MY BROTHER.
NO.
I CAN'T DO THAT.

SO I'M NOT GONNA LOOK TO YOU FOR ANYTHING.
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME FOR ME ANYWAY!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY IT.
BUT COULDN'T.

YUKINARI...
BAM
BAM
BAM
DAMN...
I CAN'T GET OUT...
WIN-DOWS ARE BARRED
NO CELL PHONE.
THE DOOR IS LOCKED.

BOOM
?!
PITTER
I DON'T ...
...HAVE MY SWORD.
IT WAS TAKEN ...
奪られた
PATTER
RMMBLE
SPLAT
SLAAM
PUULLL
WAAG
HUH?
SHIROU?
SHIROU!
WHERE DID...
...YOU?
!
?!
'HARUMA' 'HARUMA' I WANTED TO SEE YOU I WAS LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU BUT I COULDN'T FIND YOU ANYWHERE!
はるまくん
はるまくん
どこにも
あいたかったの
すごい探したのに
いないんだもん
ああ

I CAME FOR YOU, HARUMA! I WANT TO HELP YOU!
はるまくんのためにきたの
やくにたちたい
YOU'RE HURT...
YOU...
PLEASE!
DASSH
I WAS ARRESTED ALL OF THE SUDDEN...
...SO I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SENDING ME STRAIGHT TO JAIL.
RSSLE
SORRY, SHIROU ...
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
IT'S OKAY.
SKREET

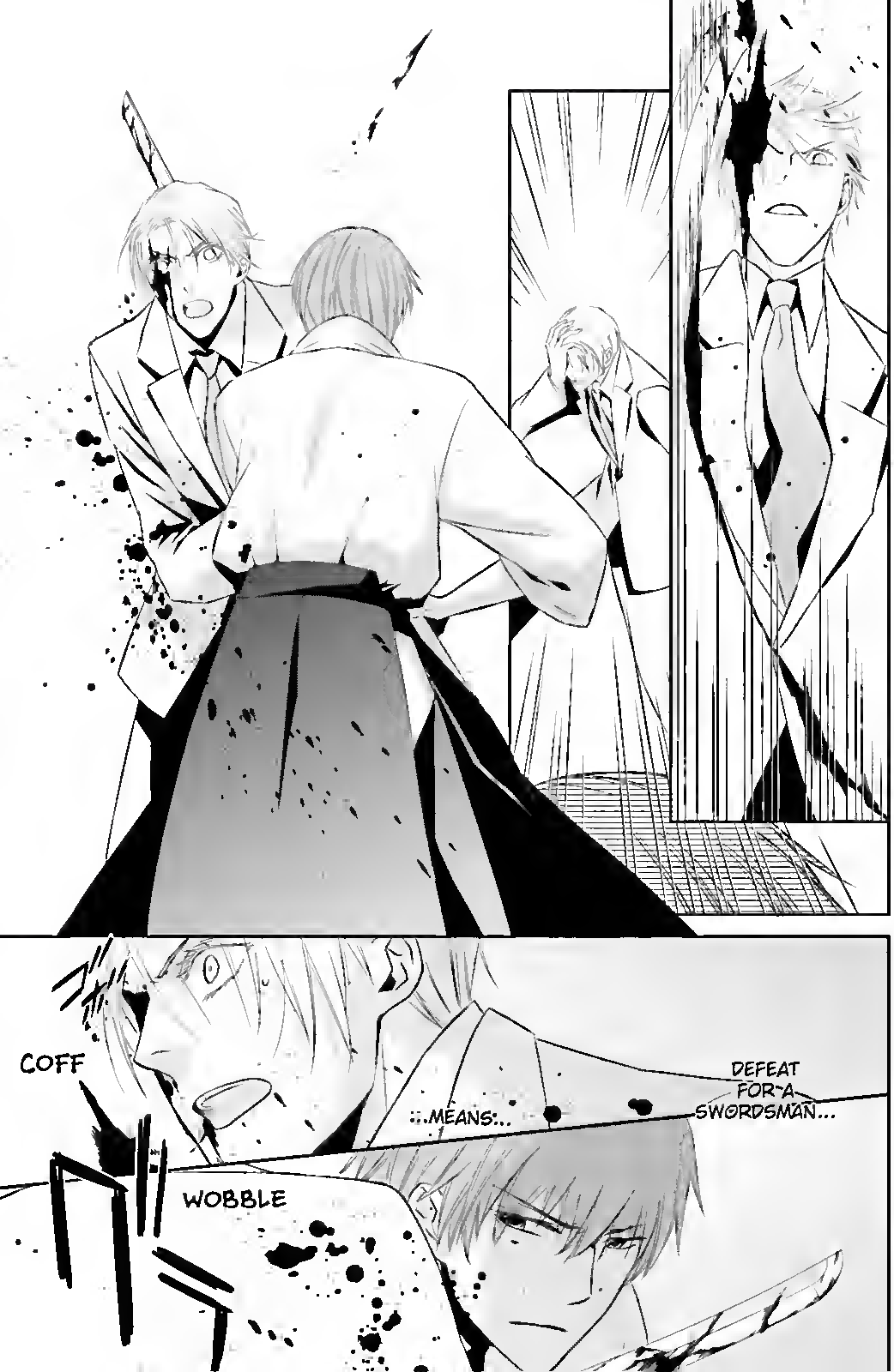
WHY AM I AT THE KOKONOE MANOR?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HAD THEM INVITE YOU.
KLACK KLACK
I'M VERY INTERESTED IN YOU.
YOU STUDIED UNDER THE ONE AND ONLY SEISHIRO SHINDO...
...AND YOUR SKILL WITH THE SWORD IS EQUAL TO YOUR MASTER.
THAT IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY RIGHT-HAND MAN?
THAT'S A TERRIBLE JOKE.

IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO. THAT DAY, INNOCENT PEOPLE FELL ONE AFTER ANOTHER BY THAT SWORD.
THIS GREAT POWER IS FOR US AND US ALONE, THE CHOSEN ONES.
...THE ONE...
...WHO SET SEISHIRO DOWN THE PATH OF MURDER.
THIS GUY SENDS A CHILL UP MY SPINE.
LET'S STOP KIDDING AROUND.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM.
I'LL NEVER FORGET...
AND I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE...

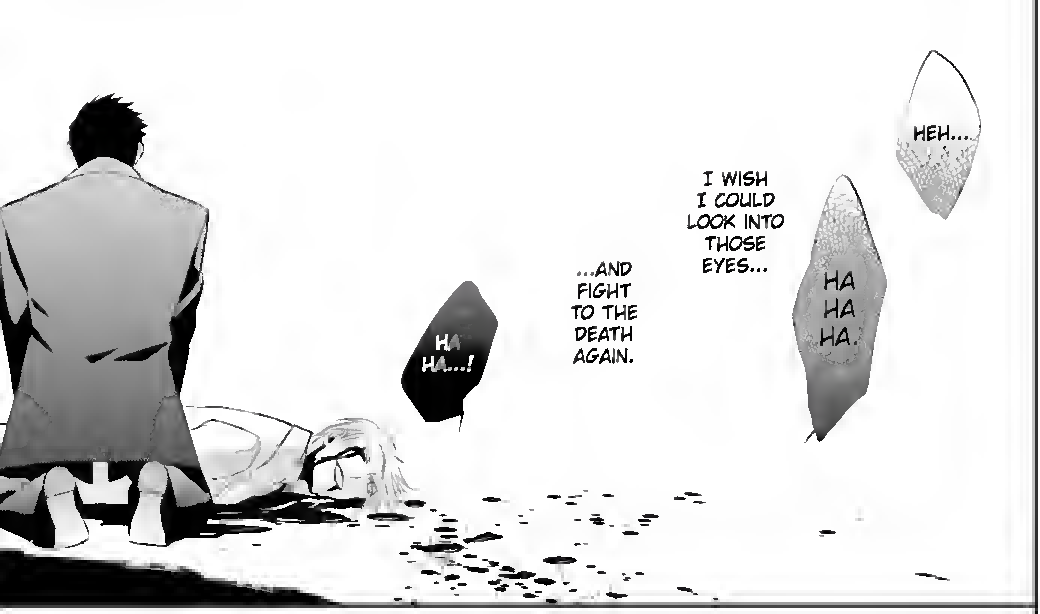
PATT
IF YOU...
...CHOOSE TO BE UPSET OVER THIS, BE WARY OF HOW YOU DO IT.
OTHERWISE THERE WILL BE MORE VICTIMS.

...SHOULD BE DEAD AND BURIED!
...AND THE MAN THAT DID THAT TO SEISHIRO...
THAT THREW SEISHIRO INTO DESPAIR...

THAT'S RIGHT.
IT WAS THEN ...
KLANG
REIJI.
SKREEE
...YOU ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
I SUP-POSE...
SKREEE
KLACK KLANG


COFF
WOBBLE
...MEANS...
DEFEAT FOR A SWORDSMAN...

SPLAT
...DEATH.
SIR!
HYU
HYU
COFF
...I SAW.
IN MY CLOUDING VISION...
HURRY UP GET HIM TREATED!
HURRY!
...SUC-CUMBING TO THE DARKNESS.
SHIVER
THE EYES OF A WARRIOR...



I LOST ONE OF MY EYES...

...BUT YET I SURVIVED, HOWEVER DISGRACEFUL IT MAY BE.

I HAVE NO USE FOR THE COWARDLY MODERN SWORDSMEN.
I WILL EXTERMINATE THEM EVENTUALLY.
THIS WILL BECOME A NATION OF THE CHOSEN.
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU AND THOSE AT SHISEIKAN...
...WHO CARRY ON THE WILL OF SEISHIRO.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I ENDED MY LITTLE TRYST WITH SEISHIRO.
I'M BEGIN-NING TO YEARN FOR THOSE EYES AGAIN.
SO YOU'RE THE ONE...
...THAT KILLED SEISHIRO?

FWIPP
KLANG
THUDD
KLING

YUKINARI!
...SO I'M IMPRESSED.
YUKINARI IS QUITE SKILLED ...
THUDD
I ALSO ...
...DETEST SEISHIRO.
!
YOU TOO?!
YOU... ARE YOU?
...AT HARUMA'S SIDE.
...BE THE ONLY PERSON ...
MY WISH IS TO ...

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW LONELY HARUMA HAS BEEN?
!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISHNESS!
IT'S NO USE.
YUKINARI WAS BROKEN FAR BEFORE I MET HIM.

TMMP
SNAP
NOW THEN...
...I MUST GO SET THE STAGE.
TMP
SNIKK
I HEARD THAT, UNLIKE YOUR MASTER...
...YOU'RE A GENTLEMAN THAT WON'T EASILY DRAW YOUR SWORD.

...I HAVE CAPTURED THE OTHER CHILD OF SEISHIRO THAT YOU'RE SO FOND OF.
I HAVE NO NEED FOR SYMPATHY OR MERCY.
A BATTLE TO THE DEATH.
WHAT I WANT IS THE THRILL OF RUNNING OVER THIN ICE.
OH, YES...
I NEED YOU TO FIGHT WITH ALL YOU GOT. OR ELSE...
WHICH REMINDS ME...

IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF HE ENDED UP LIKE HIS MENTOR.
YOU...
...BAS-TARD.
GRINN
STOMMP
I'LL...
FINE...
BRING IT ON!
...CUT THESE BAS-TARDS DOWN!
END

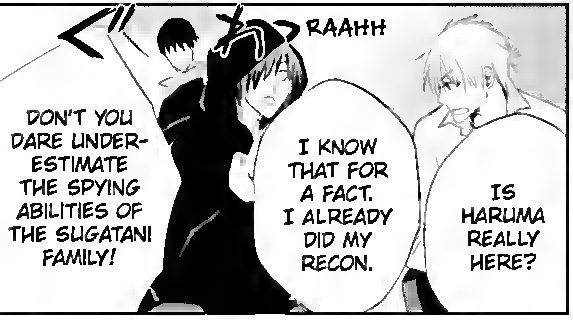
#20: DEMON DANCE

POOM
GAH!
UGH...!
SLAMM
BASSH
YOU'RE STRONG!
HA HA!
THIS MAN...
PTT
SNFKK

HE'S STRONG!
HE WANTS ME TO BELIEVE THIS IS HIS FULL STRENGTH?
BASSH
HOW PITIFUL.
TMP
TMP
SIR?
WHAAA
I'M ANGRY, BUT I'M NOT SUCH A CHILD I'LL PLAY INTO YOUR HANDS.
WHERE IS HARUMA?
HE'S STILL IN CONTROL. HE WON'T EVEN FINISH THE JOB.
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT TO SEE. HAVE I NOT MADE MYSELF CLEAR?

KOKONOE
ナレ
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, MAKE ME DRAW MY SWORD.
YOU THINK I WOULD REALLY TELL YOU?

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?


RAAHH
DON'T YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE THE SPYING ABILITIES OF THE SUGATANI FAMILY!
I KNOW THAT FOR A FACT. I ALREADY DID MY RECON.
IS HARUMA REALLY HERE?

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE KOKONOE MANOR?
THERE ARE LIKE BODYGUARDS EVERYWHERE.

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON, ALL RIGHT.

AND SENSYU!
BA-DAA
WHY ARE YOU DOING HERE AGAIN?!
THE "BEAUTY" THAT I SEEK IS WITH HARUMA KOKONOE. THAT'S WHY.
AND I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING... EVER!

FWAA
AND SHIROU TOO!
SKWEEK

EVEN WHEN ASKING FOR HELP, HE'S A MAN OF FEW WORDS.
言葉足らずっ
ぷりもよ…
しろくの
THIS FRILLED HANDKERCHIEF THAT SHIROU BROUGHT...
HARUMA'S THE ONLY PERSON THAT WOULD OWN THIS.
愛救七
GRRGH
IF YOU SAW WHERE HE IS, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO AND SAVE HIM?!
GRRGH
SO I COULD WATCH YOU ALL STRIVE AND STRUGGLE OF COURSE
GRRGH
IT'LL BE HARD TO GO FROM THE FRONT. LET'S GO AROUND BACK.
TAP
TAP
WHAT? HE'S BEING IMPRISONED?!
THANKS TO MY RECONNAISSANCE WORK, I ALREADY KNOW WHERE HE'S IMPRISONED.
HUH?!
HEY.
BA-DUMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THUDD
AHHHH!
NOW WE'VE DONE IT!
FLEX
NOW YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY!
BUT WE HAVE TO BEAT HIM FAST!
K-KEEP QUIET!
You'll alert the others!
UH-OH...
I WON'T MISS NEXT TIME!
SWISSH
WE'RE GONNA BE KILLED!

SMAK
HIDE...
HIDEHITO?!

HIDEHITO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TMP
I COULD ASK THE SAME OF YOU.
APPAR-ENTLY HARUMA IS BEING HELD PRISONER HERE.
HARUMA TOO?
JIN...
...IS ALSO IMPRISONED HERE.
WHAT? JIN TOO?!
WHY? BY WHO?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
JIN MAY BE IN MORE DANGER RIGHT NOW.
LET'S SPLIT UP AND SAVE THEM.
IBUKI, YOU GO AFTER HARUMA.
I'LL HELP JIN...
W-WAIT! ME TOO!

I...
I WANT TO HELP JIN TOO!
I WON'T HOLD YOU UP! PLEASE.
....
HEY, MAKI. WHAT ABOUT HARUMA?
IT'S OKAY. WE'LL JUST GO SAVE HIM. ACTUALLY, IF JIN'S IN DANGER, REN, YOU AND MAKI SHOULD BE BACKUP.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, IBUKI?
UH... THEN...
JUST LIKE I SAID EARLIER, THIS WILL BE DANGEROUS.

THANK YOU!
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST!
LET'S GO.
NOW, THEN...

YEAH!

HUFF
HUFF

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR WAY OF FIGHTING IS SOFT.
KLIK
KLIK
HA HA. I GUESS...
...FIGHTING CROWDS...
...TAKES IT OUT OF YOU.
HUFF
I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY.
IF YOU REFUSE TO ABANDON THIS BORING FIGHTING STYLE, I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU.
END THIS.
KLAKK
GOODBYE, HEIR OF SEISHIRO.

HIDEHITO?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK.

KRAKK
BASH
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
!
IBUKI AND THE OTHERS ARE RESCUING HARUMA.
HEH
LET'S RETURN TO SHISEIKAN.
EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU.
HA HA...!
YEAH!
ZWIPP
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HIDEHITO...

LET'S GIVE 'EM ALL WE'VE GOT!

I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE TIME!
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM THEM!
RAATTLE
SO... STRONG...
HARUMA!
HARUMA!
BAM
BAM
BAM

IBUKI!
WHOA! YOU'RE REALLY THERE!
KLUNK
....
WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CALLED US.
IF YOU ASK FOR HELP, WE'LL COME FLYING TO YOU.
NEED HELP.
FWAH
OF COURSE I'LL COME. WE'RE COMRADES!

HURRY UP AND BREAK THE LOCK.
OKAY, OKAY.
NOD
NOW...
SLASSH
HOW ABOUT WE END THIS?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR INSANITY!

...WITH THE WORLD...
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY...
...OR HARUMA.
HURRY UP AND UNLOCK IT! YOU'RE A NINJA, AREN'T YOU?!
YOU HAVE WEIRD MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SPIES...
IT'S WHAT HARUMA ALWAYS WANTED.
YUKINARI.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SIMPLY GIVEN THAT TO HIM.
WARMTH.
LOVE.
THESE ARE WHAT SEISHIRO GAVE HIM.

AND NOW HE HAS TIES WITH IBUKI AND HIS OTHER FRIENDS.
I WON'T LET THEM BE SEVERED.
YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY.
I CAN'T LEAVE HIM WITH YOU.
SORRY, BUT I'M TAKING HARUMA WITH ME.

BLAM
KLICK

BLAM
KLICK
カチャ

HUFF
HARUMA.
HUFF
HARUMA...
HUFF
GRIPP

GO!
SAVE JIN!

I'LL BE BACK!
I PROMISE!
END

I WAS FILLED WITH REMORSE.
HOW DID I FAIL TO PROTECT HIS BACK?
HOW?

#21: MY WAY

#21: MY WAY

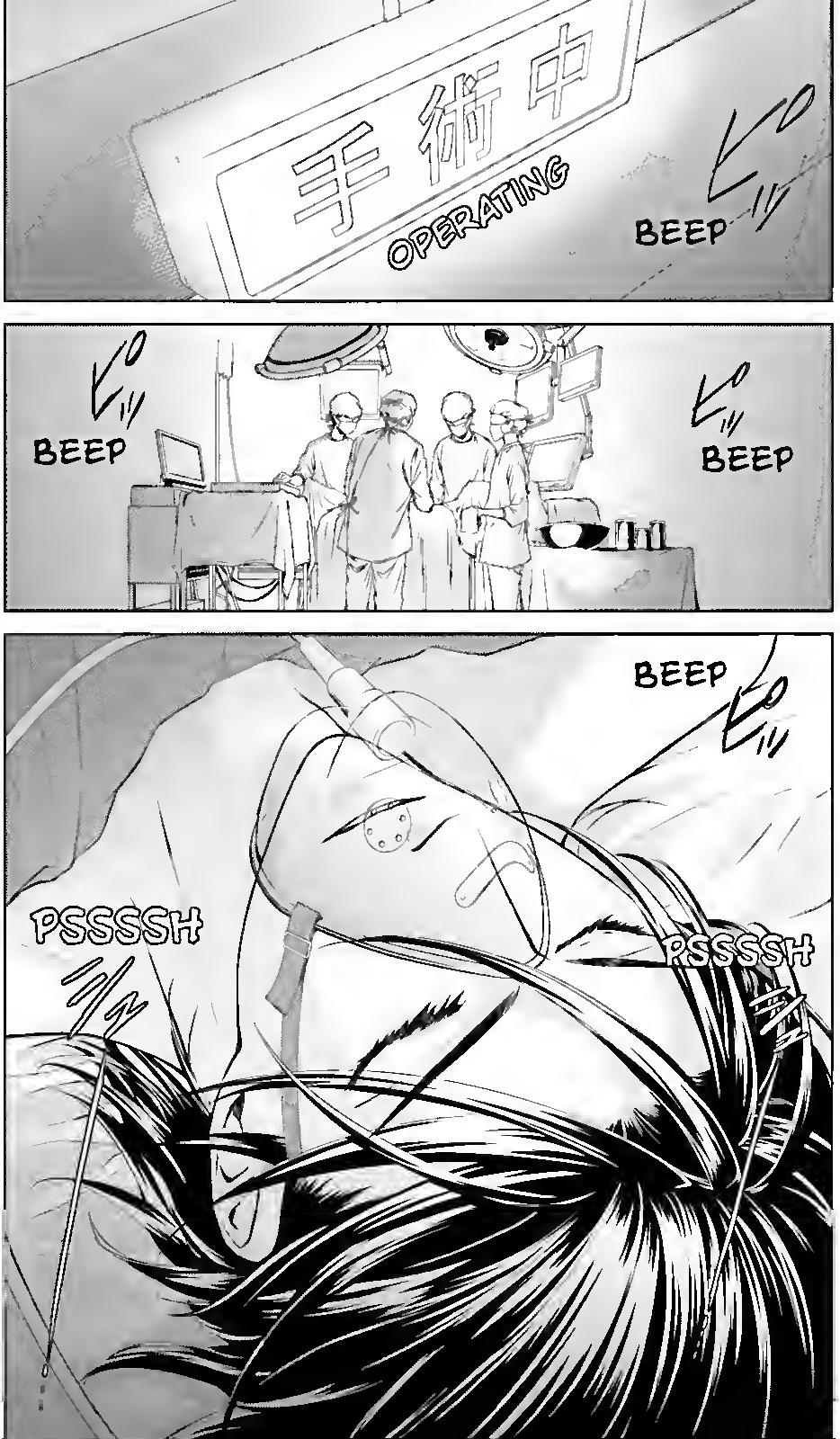
#21: MY WAY

SAMURAI DRIVE CHARACTER PROFILE - PART 19

HE'S THE SPY OF THE SUGATANI FAMILY. HE IS ATTENDING SHISEIKAN AS A REGULAR STUDENT JUST LIKE SENSYU, BUT HIS AGE AND OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HIM IS A SECRET. HE IS A DESCENDANT OF NINJA THAT SERVE THE SUGATANI FAMILY. HE SERVES SENSYU, BUT HIS ATTITUDE IS NOT VERY SERVANT-LIKE. HE'S RATHER ALOOF AND DOESN'T MINCE WORDS WITH ANYONE. IT APPEARS THAT HE'S NOT BEING VERY NINJA-LIKE, BUT HE DOES HIS JOB REALLY WELL.

SHADOW

AGE: ?? FIRST-YEAR STUDENT
HEIGHT: ??
JOB: SECRET AGENT SWORDSMAN

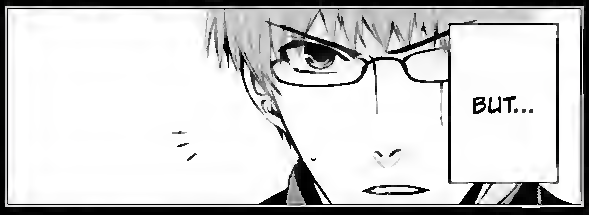

手術中
OPERATING
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
PSSSSH
PSSSSH

H-HEY!
JIN...
...WILL BE OKAY, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY.
HIDEHITO ...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
JIN IS AN ADULT.
SINCE HE'S SEISHIRO'S SUCCESSOR, THESE DANGERS ARE UNAVOIDABLE.
HE KNEW THAT WHEN HE ACCEPTED THAT ROLE.
MY SON ALWAYS ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS BELIEFS...
YOU KNOW THAT, HIDEHITO.
....

WHEN JIN WAS ARRESTED...

I FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS OFF.
WHY WOULD THEY ARREST A MERE STUDENT—EVEN IF HE WERE A PARTICULARLY SKILLED ONE?


BUT...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
...I HAD TO PROTECT HIM.
FOLLOWING HIM, WATCHING HIS BACK...
...GAVE ME A REASON TO LIVE.

BUT...
YOU KNOW THAT EYE PATCH GUY THAT WAS TALKING CRAP ABOUT SHISEIKAN?
....
HE PARKED THE CAR NEARBY AND WAS WATCHING US.
...HE TRUSTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
IT WAS AS IF HIS EYES WERE SAYING...
I THOUGHT MY DUTY WAS TO WAIT.
HEY, HIDEHITO.
SEEN THAT LITTLE SHRIMP, HARUMA, AROUND?
I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.
HE'S THE KIND THAT'S THE FIRST ONE HERE AT TIMES LIKE THESE.
WITH SEISHIRO SHINDO TAKING THE BLAME.
THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT JIN'S ARREST.
TAP
DO YOU KNOW...
...WHAT'S GOING ON?

TMP
HIDEHITO!
I WAS RUNNING...
...BEFORE I KNEW IT.
I KNEW THAT MAN WITH THE EYE PATCH.
JIN NEVER TOLD ME.
HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO GET INVOLVED.
THE DARK-NESS OF THE WORLD OF THE SWORD
I HAD AN IDEA...

A CHILL RAN UP MY SPINE...
IS THIS JUST A COINCIDENCE?
SEISHIRO SHINDO WAS THE EXTREMISTS' BIGGEST ENEMY.
AND THE TWO WHO CARRIED ON SEISHIRO'S LEGACY...
...WERE GONE.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF WERE JUST NEEDLESS WORRY.
BUT...

THAT NIGHTMARE...
THAT HORRIBLE MOMENT...
I DON'T INTEND TO SAY ANYTHING ARROGANT LIKE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD I BEEN THERE.
I WAS SO FOOLISH TO HAVE LEFT HIS SIDE, EVEN FOR A SECOND.
WHY...?
I'M STANDING RIGHT BESIDE HIM. BUT...
BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, WE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID THAT SITUATION.
KLENCH

AT THAT TIME, I FELT POWERLESS AGAIN, AS I WATCHED HIDEHITO SINK INTO DESPAIR.
...ALL I CAN DO...
...IS CURSE MY COWARDICE
JIN AND HIDEHITO ARE LIKE US.
LIKE ME AND...
I COULDN'T ...
...GRAB HIS HAND EITHER.

HARUMA HAS SAID...
...I HAVE GIVEN HIM A LOT OF THINGS.
WITHOUT YOU...
...I WOULD HAVE FALLEN INTO THE ABYSS.
BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
I WAS, THE ONE WHO WAS SAVED."
YOU ARE THE ONE...
...THAT SAVED ME.
WITH YOUR AWKWARD...
...BUT STEADY HAND.

WHEN I WENT TO HELP...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS AMAZING.
AND HE...
...HE WAS SURPRISED THAT...
...REACHED OUT FOR HELP FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SEND HELP.
...I REALLY CAME.
THAT WAS FUNNY.
HE TRUSTED ME.
I TOLD HIM THAT OF COURSE I WOULD HAVE COME.

I...
...LEFT HIM BEHIND.
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO CLOSE.
MY ANGER HAD NO OUTLET...
...AND I FELT DISMAL.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
BUT...
I...
LET'S STOP THIS.

IF WE DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM, WHO WILL?
GETTING DOWN WON'T HELP.
IT HAPPENED AND THERE'S NO GOING BACK
H-HEY!
ENOUGH WITH THE DOOM AND GLOOM.
JIN'S TOO TOUGH TO DIE.
AND I'M SURE HARUMA IS FINE!
WE'LL THINK ABOUT THE NEXT DECISION SO WE WON'T REGRET IT.
WE'LL THINK...
...AND THINK...
WE CAN TRY AGAIN.
AS MANY TIMES AS WE NEED.
BUT...

I COULDN'T ...
...SAVE HARUMA...
BUT HE TOLD ME TO GO.
SO WE COULD SAVE JIN AND OUR-SELVES.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED US FOR HELP...
GRIN
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO ACT STRONG.
NEXT TIME, I'LL DEFINITELY GET HIM OUT OF THERE!
THAT'S WHY I'LL FIND ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.
...TO HIDEHITO.
I WONDER WHY I'M SAYING THIS...
WE'VE ALWAYS MADE OUR OWN CHOICES
AND THAT'S HOW WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT PATH TO FOLLOW.

OPERATING
手術中
CLICK
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TAP
CLAP
CLAP
HALF IF THAT WAS JUST TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF.
THAT'S RIGHT.
CLAP
!
THE SOUMA BROTHERS!

HOW IS JIN?
PHEW
!
HE STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS...
...BUT THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.
HE NEEDS TO REST.
UMM...
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO HERE?
WE HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM...
GASP
HE'S OKAY...
?!
THE PEOPLE GATHERED AT SHISEIKAN ARE ABOUT TO RIOT.

THE NEWS ABOUT JIN BEING SHOT GOT OUT.
IT'S RIGHT AFTER THE SHISEI FESTIVAL THING, RIGHT?
EVERYONE'S HAD IT WITH THE ANTI-SWORD PEOPLE AND EXTREMISTS.
AND NOW THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND TOP STUDENT ARE GONE.
IT'S NOT A SURPRISE IT'S GETTING ROUGH OVER THERE.
WE NEED SOME UPSTANDING GUYS TO PULL EVERYONE BACK TOGETHER.
YOU GUYS NEED TO COME BACK WITH US.
S-SURE!

THE...
HIDEHITO?
....
HIDEHITO?
THE PATH I SHOULD TAKE IS...
JIN WOULD SAY...
GO, HIDEHITO.
TAKE CARE OF THINGS IN MY PLACE.
HE WILL SURELY TELL ME TO HEAD TO SHISEIKAN.
BUT I...

I CAN'T LEAVE JIN HERE ALONE.
I WILL STAY HERE.
HIDEHITO.
ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?
HUH?
YES.
WHOA.
THIS IS UNCOM-FORTABLE

...THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO SAY.

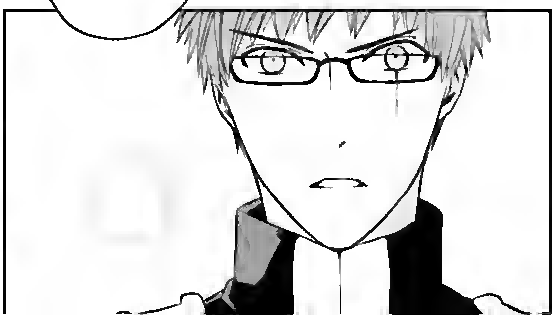
I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE.

GIVE ME A BREAK...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO ON LIKE I KNOW MORE THAN I DO.
WHY?
YOU'RE QUITE FAMOUS FOR...
...YOUR AWKWARD SPEECHES.
PET
PET
UGH!
I WAS COMPLE-MENTING YOU.
YOU'RE POSITIVE. IT'S A GOOD THING.
WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK? I KNOW YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED.
IT'S YOUR "PATH" THAT DR. IBUKI WAS RAMBLING ABOUT.
....
HA HA HA
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY WE CARE ABOUT OUR UNDER-CLASS-MEN!
SERIOUSLY, KAZUE... THIS IS CREEPING ME OUT!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
I'M SORRY.
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE EXCEPT TO PROTECT JIN.

LIKE I SAID, "I GET IT"!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER?
AFTER TWO YEARS OF BEING IN SCHOOL TOGETHER, WE GET IT. LIKE IT OR NOT.
WE'LL LET YOU STAY HERE THIS TIME.
YOU'D BETTER BE GRATEFUL.
WELL, WE WEREN'T ACTUALLY GOING TO FORCE YOU.
THIS PLACE ISN'T NECES-SARILY SAFE EITHER.
Jin can't move for a while.

I WANT TO GO HELP JIN TOO!
AND THAT'S HOW WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT PATH TO FOLLOW.

WE'LL GET THINGS CALMED DOWN OVER THERE.
YOU SHOULD THANK US ALL.



THANK YOU.
MY DEPENDABLE...
...FRIENDS.
THIS DOES LOOK TERRIBLE.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
ESPECIALLY ...
YOU COWARDS!
KLUNK
THIS IS BULL!
PSSST
PSSST
PSSST
PSSST
WHAT...?
WHOA...

EVEN JIN!
THEY'RE ALL LOOKING DOWN ON US.
THE LIES. THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL.
KRRT
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE THAT IDIOT DOWN!
THAT THIRD-YEAR STUDENT.
TASUKU SERIZAWA?!
IT'S BETTER IF WE BEAT HIM DOWN NOW!
ESPECIALLY WITH THAT EXTREMIST HIDING BEHIND THE ANTI-SWORD MOVEMENT.
PSST
PSST
CAN YOU HOLD ON FOR A SECOND?
IF YOU'RE A MAN...! IF YOU'RE A SHISEIKAN SWORDSMAN, STAND UP!

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL...
...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOUR EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF YOU. YOU'LL START LOSING FIGHTS YOU SHOULD WIN.
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS LOST TO JIN. CALM DOWN, ALREADY.
HUH?
FWISSH
KLANG

YOU AFRAID?
GROW UP, TASUKU.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET BACK AT THEM?!
WHO DOESN'T STRIKE BACK WHEN ONE OF THEIR OWN FALLS?
BESIDES, IT'S ALL CRAZY!
WITH ALL THIS HAPPENING ...

AT THE HOSPITAL...
...THEY CAME TO ASK QUES-TIONS.
BUT...
BEEP
THE POLICE...
...CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
...WHY AREN'T THE POLICE INVOLVED?!
HELLO?
YES...
YES, SIR.
WAIT!
THERE'S MORE.
MORE WHAT? WE'RE DONE HERE.
!
HEY, WE'RE LEAVING.

NOTHING HAPPENED. YOU UNDERSTAND?
I REAL-IZED THAT THEN.
THOSE ARE THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE'RE UP AGAINST.
THEY... ...WILL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES.
HEADING STRAIGHT TO YOUR OWN DEATH IS WHAT IDIOTS DO.
SO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT OPPOR-TUNITY.
WHEN IS THAT GONNA BE? YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT THEM JUST BY WAITING?

TMMP
LISTEN UP!
IF YOU THINK I'M RIGHT, FOLLOW ME!
HUMPH!
FIGURES. ALL THE COWARDS RALLY...
...WITH JIN SAITO'S LITTLE CLIQUE.
H-HEY...
THIS IS ALL WRONG. WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER HERE.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM THING!

I'LL BE FOLLOWING HIM.
I THINK TASUKU IS RIGHT.
TMP
PSST
PSST
!
MAKI...
I...
HUH...?!
WAIT!
YANK
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THIS IS...
WHAT BETTER TIME THAN NOW?!
FWIP
JIN
...
...WAS SHOT!

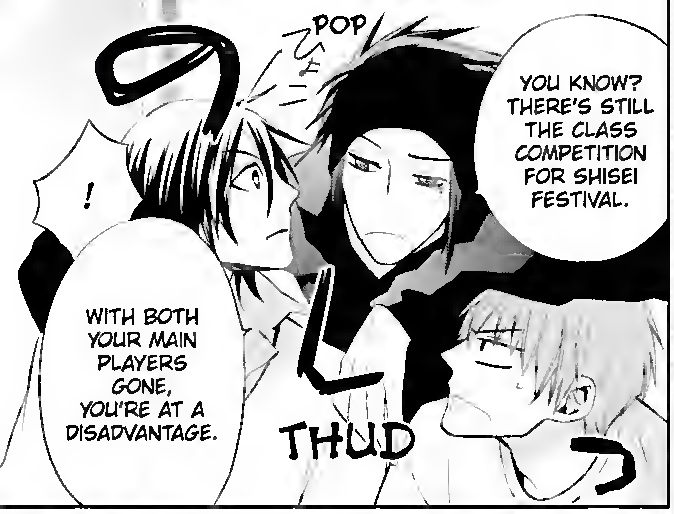
SHISEIKAN HAS BEEN DIVIDED.

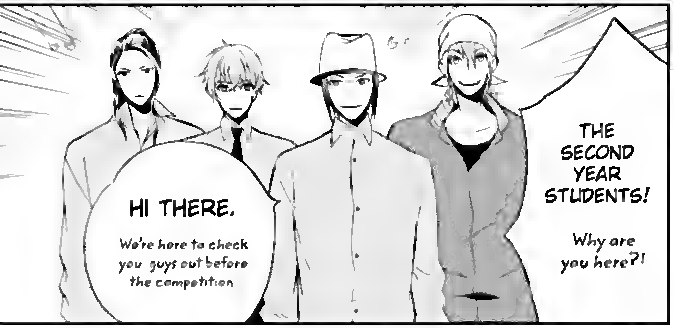
END

EPISODE #21.5 [ANOTHER STORY]: MACKIE DRIVE!

RMMBLE
HMMM
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
PRETTY DANG DIFFICULT?
YEAH... BUT HIS LACK OF SOCIAL SKILLS MAKES HIS ABILITY TO FIND PEOPLE...
OKAY.
GO GET 'EM!
IT'S GOOD THAT WE GAVE HIM A GOOD SENDOFF.

J-
JIN?!
AND HIDEHITO.
HI REN, MAKIO.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO—
PFFT
SMAK
HMM?
HUGE FAN.
大ファン
W-W-WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR CLASS?
WELL, I HEARD YOU GUYS SENT HARUMA OFF TO LOOK FOR IBUKI.
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU GUYS AS HIS FELLOW PUPIL.
THANK YOU.
J-JIN COMPLIMENTED MEEEE!
WELL, UMM, IT'S...
POINK
HA HA.
YOU'RE A FUNNY ONE, MAKIO.
IT'S NOTHING AT ALL!
I CAN DIE HAPPY NOW!
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S TALKING TO YOU, JIN.


POP
YOU KNOW? THERE'S STILL THE CLASS COMPETITION FOR SHISEI FESTIVAL.
!
WITH BOTH YOUR MAIN PLAYERS GONE, YOU'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE.
THUD

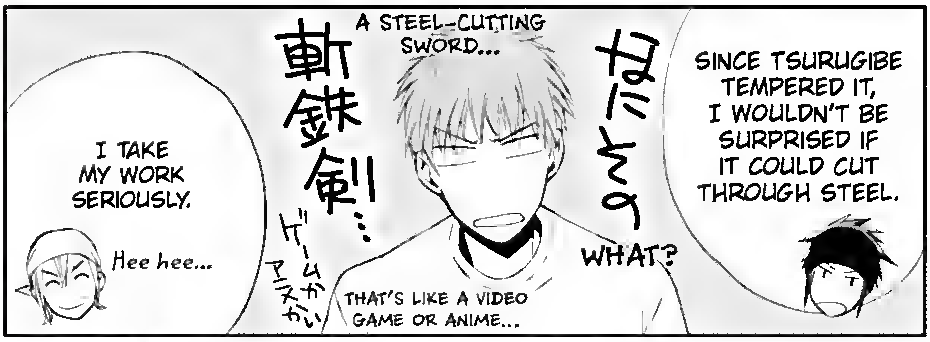

THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS!
Why are you here?!
HI THERE.
We're here to check you guys out before the competition.

DAMMIT. I'LL LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU'RE COPYING YOUR IDOL JIN'S HAIRSTYLE.
THIS IS HORRIBLE. HOW COULD YOU TREAT ME LIKE THIS, MAKI?
WE WERE JUST WORRIED FOR HARUMA BECAUSE HE FELT DOWN WITH IBUKI GONE...
I SEE. YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS, SHIINA.
IT'S NOTHING!

PRINCE IS REALLY PUMPED UP ABOUT SHISEI FESTIVAL.
NO, HE'LL BE BACK.
Both of them will!
DIDN'T WANT TO DO THE GRAND PRIX, THOUGH
IBUKI...
MAYBE MORE FOR THE PINK CARNATION GRAND PRIX THAN THE FESTIVAL...
BLIND RESPECT.
I KNOW! I THINK PRINCE SHOULD JUST WIN!
HEY!
Mackie!

HEE HEE HEE
I WILL NOT RELINQUISH MY CROWN!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, I FEEL IT'S GOOD FOR ME THAT I HAVE ONE LESS COMPETITOR TO WORRY ABOUT. THANK YOU...
SO IBUKI'S NOT HERE?
P-PRINCE...
IN THE DRESS UP COMPETITION,

HEY GUYS!
はーい!!
TSURUGIBE SMILE.
剣部スマイル。
HUH?
えっ……
I JUST FINISHED TEMPERING HARUMA'S SWORD THE OTHER DAY.
HE TOOK THAT AND RAN OUTSIDE, SO I'M A BIT WORRIED.


SINCE TSURUGIBE TEMPERED IT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT COULD CUT THROUGH STEEL.
WHAT?
なにその
A STEEL-CUTTING SWORD...
斬鉄剣…
THAT'S LIKE A VIDEO GAME OR ANIME...
ゲームかアニメかい
I TAKE MY WORK SERIOUSLY.
Hee hee...

IF BY CHANCE HE TURNS INTO WHITE DAEMON AGAIN, HE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE.
No one will be there to stop him.
あるいは一生戻って来らんないやも
PERHAPS, HE'LL NEVER COME BACK...
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO SCARY WITH A STRAIGHT FACE, HIDEHITO!
WE BELIEVE IN HARUMA!
ドカッ
GRAGH
HEY, MAKIO!!!
YEAH!
JUST KIDDING.
なーんてね
HA HA はは
WELL...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
ちょ!
冗談。
KIDDING.

FLASSH
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU, BUT YOU KEEP JUMPING AROUND! WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON ANYWAY?!
JIN IS MY ONE AND ONLY.
YOU IDIOT!
IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, WITH HARUMA'S SOCIAL SKILLS...
...WE'RE NOT SURE WHETHER HE CAN BRING IBUKI BACK OR NOT.
HEY, THEN LET'S MAKE A WAGER ON IT.
THE ONE WHO WINS GETS A CHANCE TO SPAR WITH THE DEMON GOD, JIN SAITO!
THIS IS SUPER RARE!
HUH?
PSST...
OKAY!
OKAY, SO WHO THINKS HE'LL FAIL?
THAT'S LIKE ALL THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS. HA HA!
FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS RARELY GET AN OPPORTUNITY.
THIS ISN'T EVEN A BET NOW.
THAT'S NO FUN.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH JIN, YOU'RE ALL BETTING FOR A SURE WIN! THAT'S CHEAP!
CAN YOU BLAME US? THIS IS HARUMA KOKONOE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HOW HARUMA KOKONOE WORKS!
図解! 九重晴馬
ガンをとばす
目：目つき悪い
EYES: STEELY AND MEAN.
RADIATING NEGATIVITY.
じとおお
GLOOOM
つけられない
手：おまけに早い
HANDS: QUICK TO FIGHT AND HARD TO MANAGE.
MOUTH: USES FEW WORDS; NOT GOOD AT COMMUNICATING.
カタコト
口：口ベタ
お…
魚…
BUT RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO RAISE MY HAND FOR THE PRIZE...
ごめん九重…
I'M SORRY, HARUMA...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
GRCCH
I LIKE HOW HONEST YOU ARE WITH YOUR DESIRES...
仁と手合わせ出来、尚且つ夢まで夢な一日生ズ。
THE FIRST YEAR'S WANT TO SPAR WITH SIN MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.
I GET THE FEELING THAT HE'LL BE PICKED ON BY SOME DELINQUENTS OVER THERE, HE'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF THEM, AND THEN GET ARRESTED OR SOMETHING.
しかも…
印象だよ…
SO HE WON'T BE COMING BACK.
THAT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.
THAT'S A HORRIBLE IMPRESSION YOU HAVE OF HIM.
帰ってこらない
H...
HEY, WAIT!
I DON'T MIND SPARRING WITH PEOPLE.
THERE THERE...
まぁまぁ
GEEZ...
まったく
SO WE'RE GONNA ALL BET THAT HE'S NOT COMING BACK?
It's not really a bet though...

WE SENT HIM OUT, SO WE CAN'T BE LIKE THIS!
I KNOW HARUMA HAS HIS PROBLEMS...
...BUT WE'RE HIS FRIENDS! IF WE DON'T BELIEVE IN HIM, WHO WILL?
I KNOW HARUMA WILL COME BACK.
AND HE WON'T GET ARRESTED!
I'LL BET ON HARUMA COMING BACK!
MAKI...
After all you said...
じぃと...
HMMM...
SO WHAT ABOUT THE PRIZE?
With Jin.
GASP
HIS JIN FILTER IS GONE!
OH, NO!
PSST
IT'S THE USUAL MODEL STUDENT, MAKIO!
HEY, SO WHAT WERE WE DOING ALL ALONG?!
HUH? I JUST SAID IT WITHOUT THINKING...

PATT
PATT
PATT
!
THANKS, MAKIO.
POOF
WHAT?!
WELL, ANYWAY..
SINCE MY UNDERCLASSMAN FRIEND HERE BELIEVED IN MY FELLOW DISCIPLE, WE'LL BE SPARRING WHILE WAITING FOR HIS RETURN!
!@#$%!!?
MAKIO IS GOING TO DIE OUT OF HAPPINESS!
RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME...
...THE TWO OF THEM WERE ABOUT TO GET ARRESTED.
WEE-OOO
YOU-TWO! STOP RIGHT THERE!
MY BUTT HURTS, AND WE'RE OUT OF GAS!
CRAP!
COPS!
END

SAMURAI DRIVE

THANK YOU FOR READING. THANKS TO EVERYONE *SAMURAI DRIVE* REACHED ITS FIFTH VOLUME. IT'LL STILL CONTINUE ON FOR A LITTLE WHILE, SO I HOPE YOU'LL STICK AROUND.
I SEE A LOT OF TWEETS RECENTLY SAYING "I LOVE JIN!" TO ME, SO I DECIDED TO DRAW THE SECOND-YEAR DUO FOR THE AFTERWORD. FOR SOME SPECIAL BOOKLET PROJECTS FOR THE MAGAZINE, I DRAW JIN IN A FORMAL SUIT AND HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DRAW MANY DIFFERENT THINGS.
IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REQUESTS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT *SAMURAI DRIVE*. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
THANK YOU! AS THE VOLUMES GO ON, I FEEL ALL THE MORE THANKFUL.
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

– FUJIKO KOSUMI, 2012

Special Thanks

WAKABAYASHI, EVERYONE AT THE EDITING DEPARTMENT, NISHIKAWA, KITAMURA, REO FUJITA, HAREYAMA, ISHIKAWA, EVERYONE WHO WORKED HARD FOR *SAMURAI DRIVE*. MY FAMILY, ESPECIALLY MOM AND DAD. THANK YOU FOR WAKING ME UP EVERY MORNING, MAKING ME MEALS, AND CLEANING FOR ME TOO. YUZU-TAN, MIKO. SOURCE OF MY HEALING AND ENERGY: HACHIMITSU.

SAMURAI DRIVE
Volume 5

KADDKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Fujiko Kosumi

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